GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:707
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
MAHILA SAMAKHYA PROGRAMME
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Mahila Samakhya Programme is in operation in the country;

(b) the achievements made under the programme in these States, State-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for this programme during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(d) the other schemes formulated in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the union Government to prevent girls from entering the profession of Devdasis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.707 FOR 16.05.2000 REGARDING MAHILA SAMAKHYA PROGRAMME ASKED BY SHRI G J JAVIYA.

The Mahila Samakhya Programme is being implemented in the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and has recently been extended to Kerala.

Evaluations conducted in all States except Kerala have shown that:

-• The empowerment of women has led to a growing demand for education and in all districts women have come up with requests for literacy.

-• Sanghas at the village level are playing an active role in village education committees, making schools work, ensuring that the teachers come regularly and in many instances ensuring that in their villages, children, particularly girl children, have access to formal education.

-• A foundation for women's empowerment at the grassroots level has been built.

-• Sanghas at the village level, have been able to identify and articulate needs, mobilize action and elicit support for change in areas of literacy, health, savings, water, child-care and economic activities.

-• Mahila Samakhya has reached the poor and marginal women who have been able to overcome social barriers and are addressing social issues such as child marriage, child labour, and violence against women.

-• Women have achieved a public recognition of their roles as women and as a collective within their community.

The funds earmarked by the Government of India for the programme in the fast three years and the current year are:

Year	Funds earmarked (Rs.in crores)
1997-98	6.0
1998-99	7.5
1999-2000	7.5
2000-2001	10.0

The programmes of the National Literacy Mission, the Non formal education scheme, Operation Blackboard, Lok Jumbish programme in Rajasthan, the District Primary Education Programme, Central scheme of area intensive programme for educationally backward minorities, scheme for strengthening of boarding and hostel facilities for girl students, scheme for promotion of women studies in universities, scheme for women's hostels in universities and colleges, Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme, technician education programmes phase I and II also have components for girls/women's education.

The Devadasi system, which was prevalent in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, stands legally banned. The commercial aspects of this practice attract the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. This is further supplemented with substantive laws against kidnapping, selling, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls. Under Mahila Samakhya, in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, women mobilized under the programme have prevented initiation of girls as devadasis in their villages.